

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
Ebenezer Methodist Church  
6601 Ebenezer Road  
BA-1180

As one of the oldest Methodist congregations in the United States, the Ebenezer Methodist Church has served the Bird/Middle River community since its founding in the 1790s. The present building, constructed in 1894 by the Trustees of the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, was the second church building erected by the congregation. Several members of the first church were reinterred at the adjacent cemetery, which was laid out in 1893. According to local history, the church was named in honor of Ebenezer Blackstone. In Hebrew, Ebenezer means "stone of help" making it a common congregation name. The church was one of several local "circuit" churches served by a Methodist itinerant preacher, or "circuit rider," who preached sermons at each of the churches in one day. The Ebenezer Methodist Church continued to function as a circuit church until the increase in membership prompted the hiring of the first full-time pastor in 1982.

The Gothic Revival-style building, standing two-stories in height is prestigiously located on an elevated plot of land, landscaped with mature shade trees and shrubs. Set upon a random rubble stone foundation, the wood frame building was historically clad with weatherboard that has been sheathed with vinyl siding. The wide-pitched front gable roof, clad with asphalt shingles, has a slight overhang. It is pierced on the north elevation by a single brick interior chimney. Marked by lancet openings, the projecting steeple at the facade is crowned with a flared hip roof clad in decorative wood shingles. The rectangular main block of the church is marked by single and paired lancet window openings with stained glass. A cornerstone reads: "Ebenezer Methodist Church, July 16, 1894."

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Ebenezer Methodist Church  
name of property  
Baltimore County, MD  
county and state

=====

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed in 1894, the Ebenezer Methodist Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Ebenezer Methodist Church does not meet the National Register Criteria B. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and the lives of persons significant in our past.

The Ebenezer United Methodist Church at 6601 Ebenezer Road is eligible due to the fact that it meets National Register Criteria A, C, and D. Preliminary research revealed an association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A). The Ebenezer Methodist Church was founded in this area as early as 1790 and is one of the oldest Methodist congregations in the county. The congregation constructed the present church building in 1894. This structure is a good example of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Methodist church construction. This church is not credited as a commission of a noted architect, however, it is a possible example of plan 43A from the 1889 Methodist Episcopal Church catalogue, thus making it distinguished from common rural Gothic Revival-style church construction (Criterion C). Although replacement materials and new construction have compromised aspects of the building's integrity, sufficient historic fabric remains. The presence of a cemetery provides evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history (Criterion D). Thus, the property is National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended ☒ Not Recommended ☐

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Review, OPS: *DeBenedictis* Date: 11/19/97

Reviewer, NR Program: *McIntyre* Date: 3/17/00

*cmg*

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. BA-1180

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Ebenezer Methodist Church

common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

=====

street & number 6601 Ebenezer Road not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Chase vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland code MD  
county Baltimore code 005 zip code 21027

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☒ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing      Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_

No X

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
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=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: Religious Facility

FUNERARY

Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: Religious Facility

FUNERARY

Cemetery

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Solid: Stone Rubble

roof Gable: Asphalt Shingles

walls Vinyl Siding

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☒ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Religion

Period of Significance 1894-present

Significant Dates 1894

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Baltimore County Planning and Zoning Department, Towson, Maryland.  
Vertical Files.

Ercolano, Patrick. "Church Marks 200 Years of Good Works."  
*Baltimore Evening Sun*, February 12, 1990, B1.

Sulmonetti, Reverend Earl W., and Charles E. Rada. Ebenezer  
Methodist Church, Chase, Maryland," March 25, 1965.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 15 Acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Ebenezer Methodist Church and cemetery are located at 6601 Ebenezer Road, Baltimore, Maryland.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building and cemetery have been associated with the site since the tract was purchased and improved in 1893.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Laura V. Trieschmann, Architectural Historian  
organization Traceries date August 1, 1997  
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283  
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

12. Property Owner

=====

name Ebenezer Methodist Church  
street & number 6601 Ebenezer Road telephone 410/335-4807  
city or town Chase state MD zip code 21027

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-1180

Section 7 Page 1

Ebenezer Methodist Church  
name of property  
Baltimore County, MD  
county and state

=====

The two-story Ebenezer Methodist Church building, located at 6601 Ebenezer Road, was constructed in 1894. The Gothic Revival-style building is prestigiously located on an elevated plot of land, landscaped with mature shade trees and shrubs. Set upon a random rubble stone foundation, the wood frame building was historically clad with weatherboard, which has been sheathed with vinyl siding. The wide-pitched front gable roof, clad with asphalt shingles, has a slight overhang. It is pierced on the north elevation by a single brick interior chimney. Marked by lancet openings, the projecting steeple at the facade is crowned with a flared hip roof clad in decorative wood shingles. The rectangular main block of the church is marked by single and paired lancet window openings with stained glass. A cornerstone reads: "Ebenezer Methodist Church, July 16, 1894."

**EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:**

The west elevation of the church, facing Ebenezer Road, is divided into three bays with the principal entry located in the centrally placed steeple. The tower of the steeple has a double entry opening with paneled metal replacement doors capped by an imposing lancet-shaped transom. The entry is accessible from the concrete stairs and metal rail. The side elevations of the tower are symmetrically detailed with narrow lancet windows surrounded with square-edged metal casings. A wide mullion marks the lower portion of the fixed stained glass windows.

The second story of the tower is suggested by the ogee-molded stringcourse. Equally spaced on all three exposed elevations of the tower are modest pointed arch window openings. The openings each have three fixed lights and square-edged metal casings. The lantern of the steeple, marked by the encircling shed roof of wood shingles, has no visible openings. However, as seen in historic photographs, the lantern historically was pierced on each elevation by three lancet-arched openings filled with wood louvers. The hipped spire of the steeple remains as originally designed. It has an overhanging boxed cornice created by the flared base of the roof, above which triangular vents with wooden louvers are located.

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Symmetrically placed single lancet window openings flank the steeple at the facade of the main block. Like the lancet windows on the first story of the tower, the openings contain fixed stained glass, a wide lower mullion, and square-edged metal casings. Similarly, the four bays of the side elevations of the building have lancet openings with stained glass. The third bay of the side elevations, however, projects slightly, marking the Latin cross plan of the church. The projecting bays have intersecting tracery lancet windows with extremely wide mullions. The south elevation contains a single entry opening with a paneled metal door capped by a lancet-shaped transom with stained glass and metal casings.

The east elevation has two lancet windows with stained glass on the first story and a single round window opening in the gable end. This smaller opening has a fixed stained glass window.

#### CEMETERY AND SUPPORTING BUILDINGS

Located to the south of the church building is the cemetery. Originally laid in 1893, the cemetery contains over 200 grave markers, the oldest of which are located in the northeast corner.

The granite markers, varying in design and scale, are set in loose rows running east to west among mature shade trees. The earliest markers, having been reinterred in 1893-1894, date from the 1830s and 1840s. The active cemetery is bisected by an asphalt drive extending from the church building to Ebenezer Road.

The educational building was constructed in 1965 to the southwest of the church. The two-story building is built of concrete block that has been parged. It is covered by a flat roof. The elevations are pierced by symmetrically placed 6/6 windows with rowlock brick sills. The parsonage, erected in 1981, is a one-story frame building set upon a poured concrete foundation. It is located to the north of the educational building. Clad with vinyl siding, the building is covered by a low pitched side gable roof of asphalt shingles.

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Section 8 Page 1

Ebenezer Methodist Church  
name of property  
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county and state

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As one of the oldest Methodist congregations in the United States, the Ebenezer Methodist Church has served the Bird/Middle River community since its founding in the 1790s. The present building, constructed in 1894 by the Trustees of the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, was the second church building erected by the congregation. Several members of the first church were reinterred at the adjacent cemetery, which was laid out in 1893. According to local tradition, the church was named in honor of Ebenezer Blackstone. In Hebrew, Ebenezer means "stone of help" making it a common congregation name. The church was one of several local "circuit" churches served by a Methodist itinerant preacher, or "circuit rider," who preached sermons at each of the churches in one day. The Ebenezer Methodist Church continued to function as a circuit church until the increase in membership prompted the hiring of the first full-time pastor in 1982.

#### CHURCH HISTORY

The Methodist Church had established a presence in the Bird River area as early as 1790 with the construction of a meeting house that served on Sundays as the Bird River Chapel. The building was sited on a 1/2 acre of property located on what is now Ebenezer Road, 500 feet west of Bird River Beach Road. During the late 18th century, this intersection was known as Main Country Road, bisecting the tracts known as Arthur's Choice and Farm Road. The modest parcel had been purchased for five shillings from Caleb Owings, owner of the Arthur's Choice tract. Soon after the construction of the building, the chapel became known as the Ebenezer Church. According to local history, the church was named in honor of Ebenezer Blackstone, who had owned a majority of the land in the area in 1672.

Due to the sparse population of the area by the turn of the 19th century, the Ebenezer Church was one of four local "circuit" churches served by a Methodist itinerant preacher, or "circuit rider," who preached sermons at each of the four churches in one day. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the number of churches associated with the circuit rider fluctuated as the parish district was divided and subsequently subdivided on several occasions.

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Following a brief loss in membership during and immediately after the Civil War, the number of persons participating at the Ebenezer Church had increased to 91 individual members. The American Methodists separated from the established Methodist church in 1884.

The reformed Methodist church gained in popularity across the United States, and Ebenezer Methodist Church, one of the oldest Methodist congregations in the country, also continued to grow. The increasing congregation and internal funding provided the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church with one of the highest assessments of those churches included in the Great Falls Circuit.

The expanding congregation, and the growing number of churches on the circuit, prompted the Trustees of the Ebenezer Church in 1889 to submit a letter to the Methodist Quarterly Conference requesting a building site for a new and larger church building. A committee was then appointed to locate a suitable location, although no immediate action was taken. By 1891, the congregation had reached 102 members. Thus, the position of an on-site assistant pastor was created and a parsonage house was rented in Chase. On December 8, 1892, the Trustees of the Ebenezer Church were incorporated as the total congregation reached 112 members.

#### BUILDING HISTORY

The continued growth and stable congregation of the Ebenezer Church ensured its future, prompting permission to be granted for the construction of a new church building. Early in 1893, the Trustees purchased a tract of land, described as follows:

Mary A. Thompson and Thomas Thompson deed to the Trustees of Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church grant in fee consideration \$400.00, Beginning for the same at the end of the south twenty and one half degrees east, one hundred fifty six perches, line of the land conveyed by John Thomas Ewing and wife to Mary A. Thompson AD 1886 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber JWS No. 155 Folio 134, thence running with and bounding on said land and on the County road north eighty-one degrees east, 29 perches, thence still bounding on said land the three following courses viz south 23-3/4 degrees east, 44-2/10 perches, to intersect the third line of "Arthurs Choice," as heretofore surveyed, thence bounding on said line south 66-3/4 degrees west, 71-3/10 perches, more or less, thence

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bounding on the given line of "Arthurs Choice" and the first line of Annsville reversely, north 22 degrees and 50 minutes west, 61-2/10 perches, more or less, to the center of said Road north 79 degrees east, 2 perches, north 75-1/2 degrees east, 14 perches, north 81 degrees east, 10 perches, north 84-3/4 degrees east, 21 perches, more or less, to the place of beginning. Containing 18 acres.

This new site was actually located across Main Country Road from the 1790s meeting house historically used by the congregation. On July 24, 1893, the cemetery lots were laid out, with particular care paid to shade trees and foliage. Several members of the first church were reinterred at this present cemetery. Coinciding with the creation of the by-laws, the congregation began the construction of the Gothic Revival church building. Possibly using the 1889 Methodist Episcopal Church catalogue, church plan number 43A, the imposing wood frame building was completed on July 16, 1894, as documented by the cornerstone.

The building was dedicated on October 20, 1894. The event was documented in the *Baltimore Methodist* on October 24, 1894 as follows:

Sunday, the 20th was a grand day to the people of Ebenezer appointment, Great Falls Circuit, it being the occasion of the dedication of their new church. The building is a Gothic structure, 34 by 65 feet, inclusive of pulpit recess and tower, and is situated on an eminence near the old church and a half mile from Chase station P.W. & B. RR.

The audience room is beautifully frescoed, covered throughout with Brussels carpet, seated with comfortable pews of quartered oak, is lighted with windows of a combination of frosted and stained glass and furnished with a magnificent chandelier of the most brilliant reflecting power.

The erection of the building was under the superintendency of Mr. Jno. A. Sheridan, one of the trustees, through whose careful management and persistent effort we have the completed edifice. The entire cost, including a beautiful cemetery plot adjoining the church,

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=====

is about \$3,500.00, all of which has been provided in cash and subscriptions, except \$700 which amount will be funded and met in easy payments. Much praise must be given to the Ladies Aid Society of the appointment for their continued and patient effort in behalf of this enterprise.

Despite the construction of the new church building, the congregation remained one of six churches in the Great Falls Circuit. It was not until 1982 that Reverend Clark Carr was hired as the first full-time pastor for the Ebenezer Methodist Church. The latter half of the 20th century has also brought physical alterations to the property with the 1965 construction of the educational center and the 1981 construction of the parsonage (erected for \$39,175). The congregation of the Ebenezer Methodist Church has continued to serve the Bird/Middle River community, effectively providing religious guidance, shelter, relief, council, and refuge. In fact, the educational center served as one of the major emergency relief stations after the January 4, 1988 Amtrak train and Conrail collusion.

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=====

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)  
Modern Period (1930-present)

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Architecture, Landscape, and Community Planning  
Religion

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** RELIGION: Religious Facility  
FUNERARY: Cemetery

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

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Ebenezer Methodist Church  
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=====  
Chain of Title:

1886: John Thomas Ewing to Mary A. Thompson and  
Thomas Thompson  
Land Records of Baltimore County,  
Liber JWS 155 Folio 134

May 13, 1893: Mary A. and Thomas Thompson to the  
Trustees of the Ebenezer Methodist  
Episcopal Church  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber LMB 197 Folio 321



SKETCH MAP

Ebenezer M.E. Church

6601 Ebenezer Rd. Chase, MD

BA-1180

← N

Baltimore  
County

cemetery

cemetery

oldest  
graves.

Mech.

church  
school  
+ offices

wooded  
area

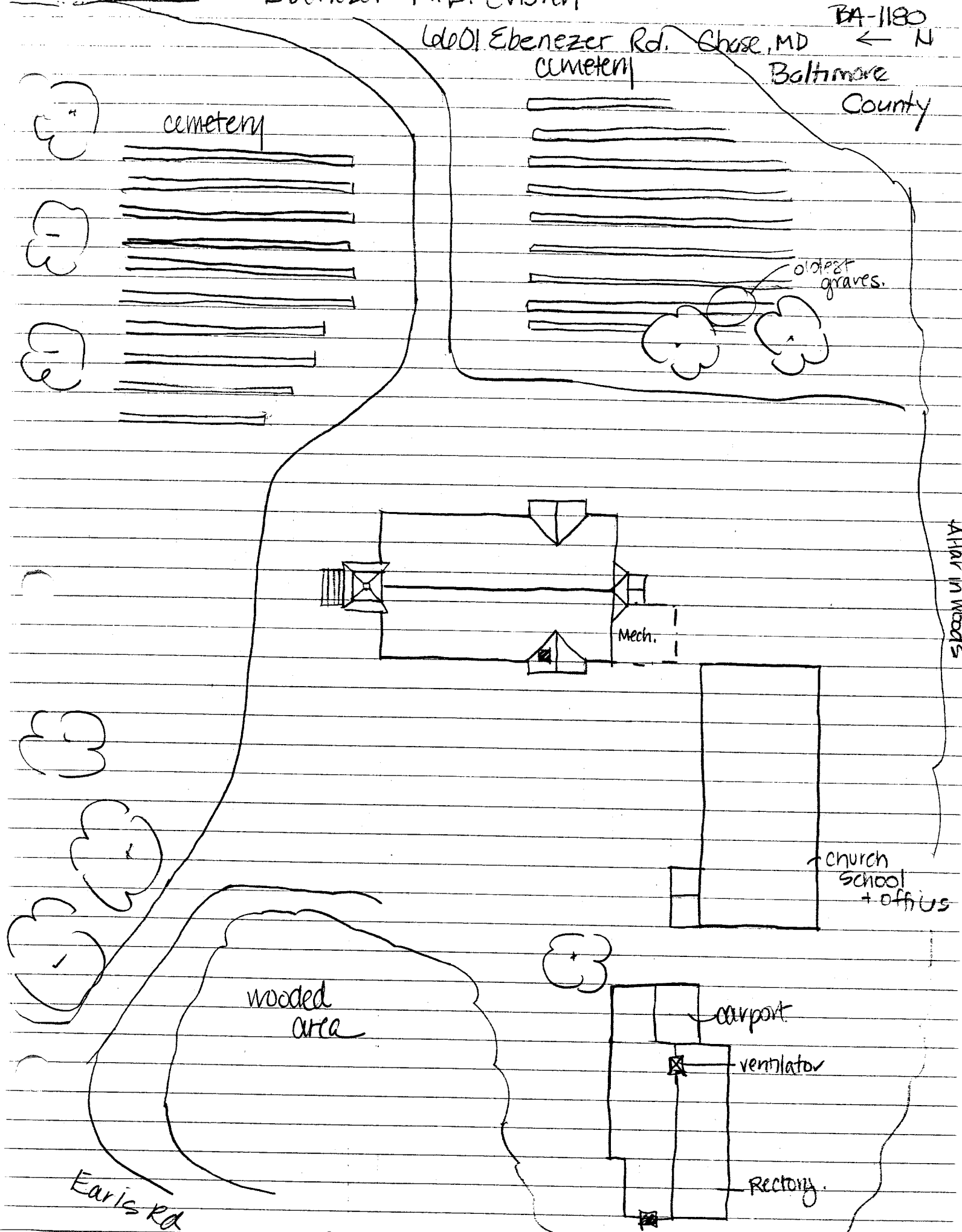
carport

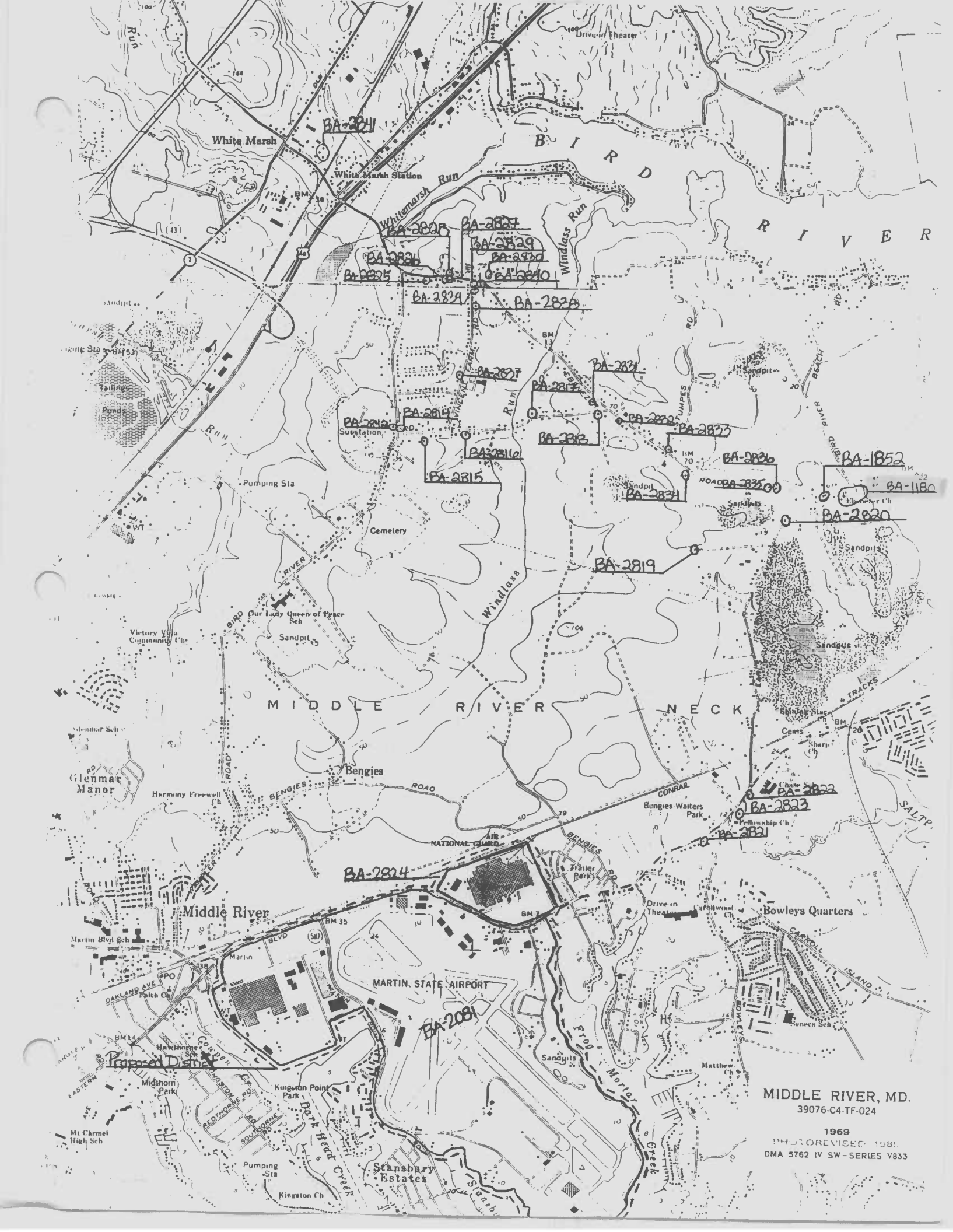
ventilator

Rectory

Earle Rd

Area in woods





MIDDLE RIVER, MD.  
39076-C4-TF-024  
1969  
PHOTO REVISED 1981  
DMA 5762 IV SW-SERIES V833



BA-1180

EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH  
CHASE, MD

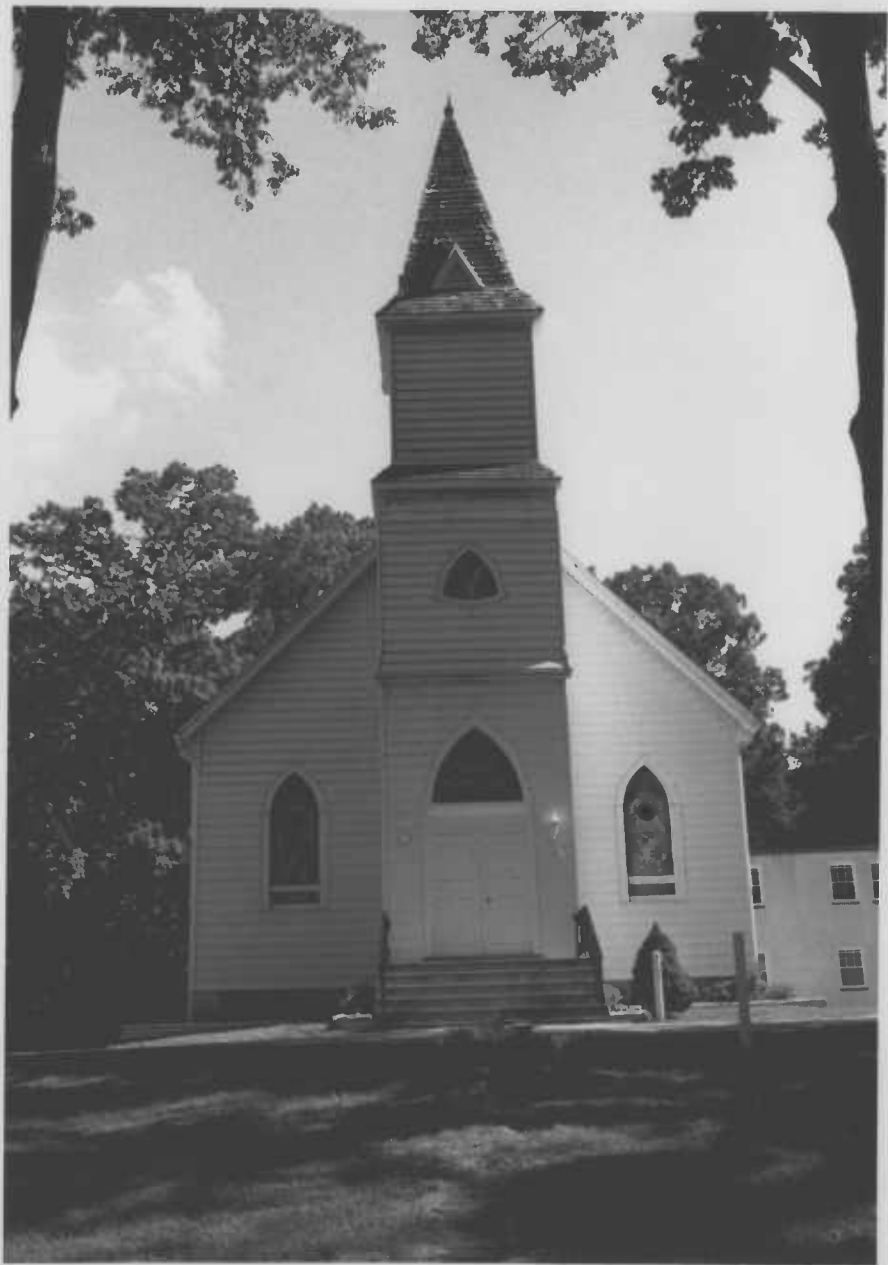
TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

GENERAL VIEW- LOOKING WEST

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EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

CHASE, MD

TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

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EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

CHASE, MD

TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

3 OF 10





BA-1180

EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

CHASE, MD

TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

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EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH  
CHASE, MD  
TRACERIES  
AUGUST 1997  
MARYLAND SHPO  
EAST ELEVATION  
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EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

CHASE, MD

TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

CEMETERY - LOOKING NE

6 OF 10



BA-1180

EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

CHASE, MD

TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

CEMETERY - LOOKING NE

7 OF 10





BA-1180

EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

CHASE, MD

TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

CEMETERY - NIZER FAMILY GRAVES

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EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

CHASE, MD

TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

CHURCH SCHOOL & OFFICES - NW CORNER

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BA-1180

EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH  
CHASE, MD

TRACERIES

AUGUST 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

RECTORY - NORTH ELEVATION

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